

Shrewsbury Public Library

Spring 2007 News & Events

A Note from the Director..

Due to some personal challenges in my life of late, I've been thinking about life's blessings: family, health, the beauty of nature, fulfilling work and such. I'm sure these are standard entries most would include on such a list, but I think one more item is appropriate. Reading and great books should be there as well. I know I've found books and stories have enriched my life and provided comfort during difficult times.

I was reminded of this as I drove to work one morning listening to radio personality Don Imus interview Senator John McCain. They began discussing politics, but quickly turned to the topic of favorite books and authors. The digression was so complete that Senator McCain mentioned he probably wasn't brought on the show to offer a book review. I suspect there were many in the listening audience, like myself, who were glad to hear about their reading habits and the satisfaction they found in reading. Imus said that reading has been one of the more important aspects of his life. He noted that books can teach so much about the world and provide rich vicarious experience. McCain passionately echoed his thoughts. Both then began listing some of the books that had impacted their lives. I recalled that a few days earlier, during a public radio interview, author E. L. Doctorow discussed how certain great books can change people, transform human experience and alter society. Both discussions, considering the impact of reading on a personal or societal level, were fascinating.

I mention this in our newsletter, despite the fact that it means confessing to oddly eclectic listening tastes on "both sides of the dial," because the love of reading, and great books, is central to libraries. While it's true that we serve other needs (for current and correct information, for access to technology services, and so on) books and reading are a core part of our mission. Librarians often witness how transformative books and reading can be. We watch young children discover the joys of the spoken word and early literacy. We observe students use books for pleasure and education. We encounter adults who have embraced the habit of reading to enrich and improve their lives. And we are often reminded of the great richness found in books for many of our senior readers. Every day we see how literacy and having the comfort of a great book affects people from all walks of life, ages and backgrounds. In the library world, these are pretty common ideas, but to have the joys of reading declared by more "celebrated" folks is gratifying.

The reading theme came full circle at the end of my day when I stopped to visit my mother at a nearby nursing home. As we walked along her floor, slowly making our way past other residents, I saw a woman in her usual spot at the end of long hallway, with a book in hand. Each night, taking advantage of the good light there, she sits reading. I always stop to ask about her current selection. On this night, she told

Come In and Visit!

Celtic Music with "Thara's Thistle"

Join us on Monday, March 4, at 7pm for an evening of Celtic music with "Thara's Thistle." Enjoy traditional folksongs of Ireland and Scotland, interwoven with historical background and featuring traditional musical instruments. A delightful way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day! Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

An Inconvenient Truth

Join us on Monday, April 30, at 7pm for a viewing of Al Gore's award-winning documentary about global climate change. A discussion of the film will follow.

Friends' Annual Book Sale

Friday, May 18th: 10am to 4pm

Saturday, May 19th: 9am to 4pm

Sunday, May 20th: 1pm to 4pm

Beginning April 1st, the Friends of the Library will be accepting donations of all books and media, in good condition. Proceeds from the sale will be used to support library programs and services.

For more events, see inside...

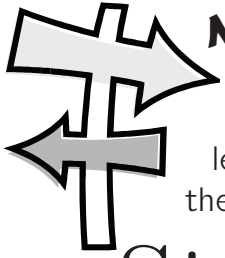
me it was one she had read many times before, but returns to again and again "because it gives such comfort."

As I drove home that day, I reflected on that common thread of books and comfort. It was poignant to see that kind of comfort being realized in the quiet corner of a nursing home hallway. Among the many blessings in my life, an important one is working in a field where such richness and comfort is available to all.

Respectfully,

Ellen M. Dolan
Library Director

Children's Room News



NOW OFFERING PARENT TOURS

You've been to the Children's Room, but do you know where everything is located? Come the first Thursday of the month in March, April and May at 2pm for a tour of the Children's Room. Also learn about online resources, requesting materials from other libraries, and searching the online catalog. Contact a Children's Librarian to register.

Storytimes

Baby and Me Storytime

A 30 minute program of stories, finger plays, songs, and movement designed for children ages birth to 2½ with an accompanying adult. Program runs on Tuesdays, April 3, 10, 17, 24 at 10:30am. Siblings are welcome. Due to limited space, a lottery will be held from March 26-30.

Preschool Storytime

Preschool storytimes feature stories and crafts, and are open to children ages 2½ to 6. No registration is necessary. Our Spring sessions will be on the following dates and times:

Thursdays at 10:30am, March 8, 15, 22 and 29; April 5, 12, and 26; May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31.

Lunch Bunch Storytime

Fridays, March 9, April 20 and May 11; 11:30am

A blanket, a lunch, and you! Come and listen to stories while you eat. All ages are welcome with an accompanying adult; no registration required.

SUMMER READING IS COMING SOON!

Ready to think Summer? Join us to "Catch the Beat @ the Shrewsbury Public Library." Come to the Children's Room beginning May 15 to receive your calendar of events. There will be reading programs, special performers, crafts, prizes, and more. Don't be left out!

April Vacation Week — Reading Can By Fun(ny)!

Did you miss our April Fool's Program? Then don't miss April Vacation Week in the Children's Room— *Reading Can By Fun(ny)*. Pick up a book log and stop by the Children's Room this week to find out about all the "funny" happenings. April Vacation Week programming runs Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, April 17, 18 and 19, from 10:30am until 4pm. No advance registration is necessary.

DROP-IN PROGRAMS

These programs will be held all day (10:30am to 4pm) in the library.

No registration required—drop in anytime!

Friday, March 16—Do you feel lucky? Join us in the Children's Room on March 16 for a day of Saint Patrick's Day fun.

Tuesday, March 27—Get ready for April Fool's Day on March 27. Come to the Children's Room to make a decoration and learn some tricks!

Sign-up Programs

These programs will be held at a specific time. Space is limited, so registration is required.

Registration can be done in the Children's Room, or by calling 508-842-0081 x4.

Tuesday, April 24, 5pm—*Can you do it?* Using a variety of objects, can you solve a problem? Bring yourself, a friend, and don't forget your brains! For grades 3 and up.

Tuesday, May 1, 4pm—*Surprise your Mom!* While Mom relaxes in the library, you will prepare a special surprise for her. For grades K through 4.

Tuesday, May 29, 5pm—*Everybody_____!* Come learn about something you do every day. Ask a children's librarian for details. For grades 3 and up.



Young Adult News

(for students in grades 5 through 12)

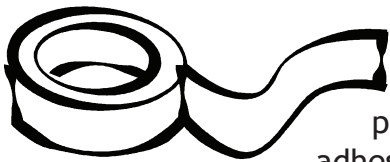
SPL offers FREE Homework Help!

Is there anything more annoying than homework? Yes, there is—homework that you can't figure out! To help you out, we've started offering **LIVE HOMEWORK HELP!** Now you can chat online with a licensed tutor and get that homework done in no time. **LIVE HOMEWORK HELP** is available



from 4pm to 10pm every day, and can be accessed from any computer with an internet connection—just click on the link on the library website and enter your library card number. It's easy and free! Give it a try and let us know what you think.

DUCTIGAMI: THE ART OF THE TAPE

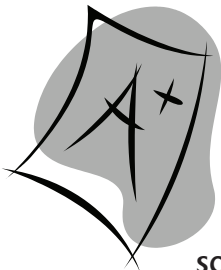


Join us on Friday, March 16 at 2:30pm to explore the creative possibilities of everyone's favorite adhesive: Duct Tape! We'll have instructions on hand for a variety of projects, such as iPod and cell phone holders, tv caddies, wallets, and more.



Curious about SPLAT?
<http://splatspl.blogspot.com>

10 easy ways to impress your teachers



Want to impress your teachers this year? Want to learn how to do library research at home? Come to one of our info sessions for some quick, easy tips on doing library research:

Thursday, March 29 at 3pm
Thursday, April 19 at 2:30pm
Tuesday, May 8 at 6:30pm

Each session will last an hour, and will guide you through the exotic jungle otherwise known as the Reference department. For students in grades 9 through 12; registration is required and can be done at the front desk or by calling the library.



www.myspace.com/splatatspl

SPL ♥s Library Volunteers

We'd like to thank our great crew of volunteers who have donated their time and energy to helping out at the library. Interested in joining their illustrious ranks? All of our volunteer positions are currently filled, but we'll need more people this summer! Stop by in May to pick up a volunteer application and sign up for one of the required orientation sessions.

YA Book Chats

The YA Book Chat selection for March is *The Amulet of Samarkand* by Jonathan Stroud. Come to the library to discuss the book on Thursday, March 15 at 3:30pm. In April, we'll read *Twilight* by Stephanie Meyer on Wednesday the 18th at 3:30pm.

These books are available at the front desk one month prior to each meeting.

What do you want to read? Suggest titles for future teen book chats via email (ssogigia@cwmar.org) or aim: SarahAtSPL.



April 17 is National Library Worker's Day. Hug your librarian today!

SPL for Adults: News & Events

College Funding Seminars

The Shrewsbury Public Library will be offering a free community workshop to teach parents of high school seniors and juniors about the opportunities available to help them finance their children's college education. Conducted by the College Funding Architects of Shrewsbury. Sessions will be offered on Tuesday, March 6; Wednesday, April 11; and Wednesday, May 9 – all at 7pm. Pre-registration is required. Please stop by the front desk, or call us at 508-842-0081 ext. 3.



Vernal Pools

Come and celebrate the beginning of Spring! Enjoy a talk and slide presentation on vernal pools, presented by staff from the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

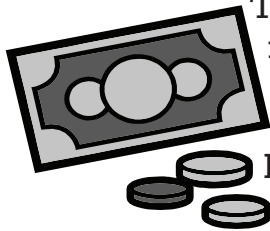
Monday, March 19 at 7pm

Shrewsbury Genealogy Club

Mondays, March 26, April 23 and May 21 at 7:30pm

Whether you're just beginning or well advanced in your family history quest, join us for shared ideas, tips, and (occasionally) refreshments!

Free Income Tax Help



There are still some time slots available for free income tax help on Saturday mornings in March: sessions are available between 9am and noon. Pre-registration is required. Please stop by the front desk, or call us at 508-842-0081 ext. 3.

Science Fiction Book Chats

March 7: *Kitty & the Midnight Hour*
by Carrie Vaughn

April 4: *Stranger in a Strange Land*
by Robert Heinlein

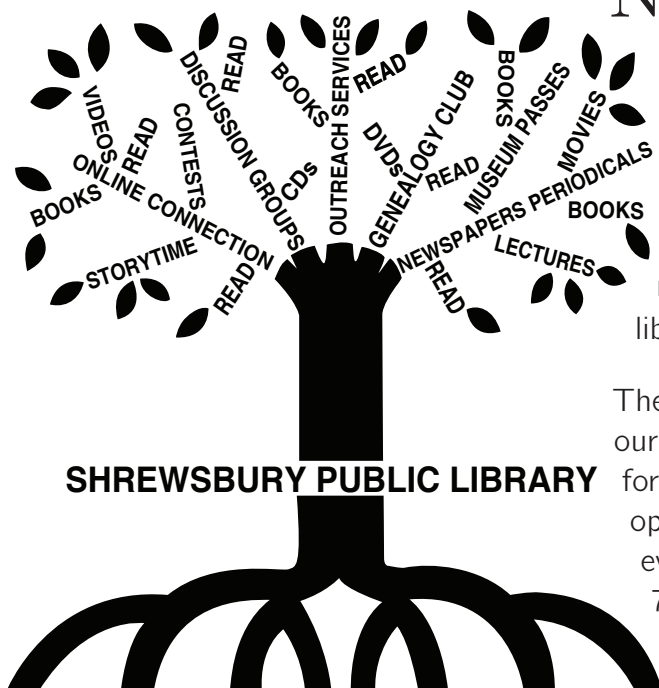
May 9: *The Call of Cthulhu*
by H.P. Lovecraft

All Sci Fi Book Chats are on
Wednesday nights and start at 7pm.

News from the Friends:

The Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library are pleased to announce the sponsorship of their annual scholarship. This scholarship, in the amount of \$500, will be awarded to a graduating high school senior who resides in Shrewsbury and is continuing his or her education as a full-time student toward a bachelor's or associate's degree. Scholarship applications may be picked up at your school's Guidance office or at the library. The application deadline is Saturday, May 19.

The Friends of the Library invite you to join in and help support our town library. We sponsor an annual scholarship, programming for children and adults, an annual weekend book sale, a holiday open house, free concerts on the common and many other events. Meetings are held at the library, on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm. Upcoming meeting dates are March 13 and April 10. Applications are available at the front desk, or on the library's website. We look forward to having you join us!



Rediscover Your Library: Outreach Services

Outreach services have been a long and proud tradition at the Shrewsbury Public Library. Many will recall the bookmobile donated by Anthony and Olive Borgatti, which began service in the 1960s. The bookmobile provided many hours of pleasure and enrichment to adults and children in neighborhoods across the community. In fact, though, outreach efforts began even earlier. In 1922, library records show there were “*four school stations*” with books for students in the community. In 1925 further note is made of “*books sent to five schools.*” That tradition continued in the 1930s with classroom libraries “*installed in Calvin Coolidge and Artemus Ward schools*”. At times, outreach efforts even extended beyond the community. In 1942 the library staff collected 1,500 books to send to servicemen fighting in WWII. Outreach efforts were enhanced in 1959 when a new team of volunteer “library ambassadors” founded the Friends of the Library organization and worked to promote the library and support its effort to reach more users. Even when changing economics and demographics brought the end of the bookmobile in the year 2000, the commitment to outreach services continued with the purchase of the first Outreach Van. Delivery of materials to homebound residents, people in



senior housing and children in local preschools and daycare centers resumed a month later. That service continues today. In recent years we have made efforts to expand outreach to local schools, allowing teachers to enjoy delivery and pick up of a wide range of materials to support classroom activities. We have also begun to offer more programming through our Outreach Department. Outreach Librarian Deb Mayo and other library staff have visited local nursing homes, community groups and senior housing units to offer programs on topics of interest to seniors. Outreach continues to grow through electronic access as well. Most library users are familiar with online systems provided by the library that allow patrons to renew or reserve a book from home or work, or sign up to use a museum pass. Today more users are discovering the many ways to use the library for research, education and enjoyment from home, school or workplace. They may use our online genealogy or business tools, make use of a professional tutor in a live chat-based service for a math assignment, download a new audio book to their MP3 player, find the newspaper or magazine article they desire, or check the price of a recent yard sale find on the PriceIt database. Times change and bring new realities, challenges and opportunities, but the goal of providing services to people where they live and work remains an important mission of the public library.

Interlibrary Loans: A Community Investment

Last month, SPL's Interlibrary Loan department handled 3,468 requests for the C/W MARS region. The per-item cost for delivery alone is \$2.60. This obviously does not take into account the personnel costs related to retrieving the item from the shelf, processing it in the computer, and placing the required reserves, calls or notices. As you can see, there is a great investment of local, state, and federal resources to make the Interlibrary Loan system possible. Your diligence in picking up requested materials is more than just appreciated by our staff: It makes good economic sense. If you've received notice that your ILL requests are ready for pickup and you know you won't be able to come to the library in time to retrieve them, please contact the library at 508.842.0081 x3. We'll be happy to make arrangements to hold your items a day or two longer.

Graphic Novels for Everyone!

If you've been downstairs in our Adult Nonfiction department in the last few months, you may have noticed the colorful new selection of items near the sci-fi shelf. We're happy to announce we've expanded our collection to include graphic novels for adults, as well as children and teens. Our initial circulation statistics have been promising, and our collection is slowly growing. If you think comics are strictly kid stuff, check out titles such as *Maus* by Art Spiegelman or *Cancer Vixen* by Marisa Acocella Marchetto to see for yourself what this genre is really capable of.

Shrewsbury Public Library
609 Main Street
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit #192
Worcester, MA 01613

ECRWSS
Resident Customer
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Library Hours
Mon.-Wed. 10am-9pm
Thurs.-Sat. 9am-5pm
Sun. 1-5pm

Contact Information
Phone: 508-842-0081
Fax: 508-841-8540
TTY: 508-841-8530
<http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/library>

SUNDAYS ARE BACK!

Thank you to our sponsors who have restored the full season of Sunday hours. We know many library users are pleased to have the Sunday hours restored. Attendance numbers reflect its popularity. You can help us let our sponsors know how much their support is appreciated by thanking any of the generous individuals, businesses or associations listed below.

Sunday Sponsors

Six Sundays

Dunkin' Donuts & Baskin Robbins

Four Sundays

Olive I. & Anthony A. Borgatti Fund

Two Sundays

Shrewsbury Lions Club

Central One Federal Credit Union

Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union

Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library

One Sunday

EVA Subscription Services Inc.

Brian Smith/Spectros Associates

Shrewsbury Garden Club

Polito Development Corporation

Rotary Club of Shrewsbury

Building 19 Shrewsbury

ADVISE/League of Women Voters

Ken Milley, Chair Maker

Carol N. Andrews/Realtor, RE/MAX First Choice

Heisler & Mattson Properties

**God's Little Children Preschool, Black Diamond Coffee & SPLAT
Shrewsbury Police Department Community Policing Program**

Anonymous Donor

Philip Hammond

John Morrissey

Thank you to our generous sponsors!